

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as set forth below. A listing of the claims is provided and will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in the application.

Listing of the Claims:

1. (currently amended) A tethering system according to the present invention, comprising:

a tether housing having an internal tether that is extendable from said tether housing under a pulling force, said tether retracting into said tether housing when said pulling force is removed;

a mounting apparatus integral to said tether housing and arranged to mount said tether housing;

a holstering system integral to said tether housing and arranged to allow an electronic personal device to be removably mounted to said tether housing with said extendable/retractable tether attached to said personal device, said tether being extendable to allow use of said personal device and also to prevent said personal device from falling to the ground when said tether housing is mounted and said personal device is jarred from said holstering system; and

a lanyard loop attached to said tether housing, said lanyard loop suspended such that there is no tension between said tether housing and said personal device when mounted,

wherein said holstering system comprises a substantially U-shaped elevated slot and said personal device comprises a pivoting ball, said ball arranged in said elevated slot shaped to receive a pivoting ball mount mechanism.

2. (canceled)
3. (original) The tethering system of claim 1, further comprising a lanyard attachment to prevent said tether from fully retracting into said tether housing.
4. (currently amended) The tethering system of claim 1, wherein said elevated slot is vertically arranged to receive a pivoting ball ~~on said personal device mount mechanism~~.
5. (canceled)
6. (currently amended) The tethering system of claim 4, wherein a leg of said U-shape elevated slot ~~comprising~~ comprises a hinge ~~to hold said pivoting ball in said slot~~.
7. (original) The tethering system of claim 1, further comprising a ratchet lock to hold said tether at a desired extended length.
8. (original) The tethering system of claim 1, wherein said tether extends from said housing through a top surface of said housing.
9. (original) The tethering system of claim 1, wherein said tether extends from said housing, through a front surface.
10. (original) The tethering system of claim 1, wherein said mounting apparatus comprises a mounting clip.
11. (currently amended) A tethering system according to the present invention, comprising:

a tether housing having front and back surfaces;
a tether internal to said housing;
a spring internal to said housing and arranged to allow said tether to be extended from said tether housing against the force of said spring and said spring urging said tether to retract into said housing;

a mounting apparatus on the back surface of said tether housing, said mounting apparatus arranged to mount said tether housing to a person;

a holstering system on the front surface of said tether housing and arranged to allow an electronic personal device to be mounted to said tether housing with said extendable/retractable tether attached attachable to said personal device, said tether being extendable to allow use of said personal device by said person, said spring and tether also preventing arranged to prevent said personal device from falling to the ground; and

a lanyard loop attached to said tether housing, said lanyard loop suspended such that there is no tension between said tether housing and said personal device when mounted,

wherein said holstering system comprises a substantially U-shaped elevated slot and said personal device comprises a pivoting ball arranged in said elevated slot shaped to receive a pivoting ball mount mechanism.

12.. (canceled)

13. (original) The tethering system of claim 11, further comprising a lanyard attachment to prevent said tether from fully retracting into said tether housing.

14. (currently amended) The tether system of claim 11, wherein said elevated slot is vertically arranged to receive a pivoting ball ~~on said personal device~~ mount mechanism.

15. (canceled)

16. (currently amended) The tethering system of claim 14, wherein a leg of said U-shape elevated slot ~~comprising~~ comprises a hinge ~~to hold said pivoting ball in said slot~~.

17. (original) The tethering system of claim 11, further comprising a ratchet lock to hold said tether at a desired extended length.

18. (original) The tethering system of claim 11, wherein said mounting apparatus comprises a mounting clip.